

North Sumatra Fundraising Journey

October 2027

Following the incredible impact and response to previous journeys, Mate's Gift will again be returning to North Sumatra in October 2027 for another hands-on fundraising journey supporting grassroots animal welfare and community programs.

Guests will travel through some of Sumatra's most beautiful and remote regions including Bukit Lawang, Tangkahan and Lake Toba while contributing directly to meaningful projects alongside local teams and villages.

This experience combines jungle trekking, cultural immersion, animal welfare initiatives, village life and genuine community connection in a way that traditional travel simply cannot offer.

Throughout the journey, guests may have opportunities to:

- Support sterilisation and parasite control programs
- Visit local villages and community initiatives
- Assist with animal welfare and outreach projects
- Experience jungle trekking and river systems
- Visit elephant feeding and conservation areas
- Help distribute donated supplies into remote communities
- Spend time with local children and village families
- Experience traditional Batak culture and life around Lake Toba

Guests can expect a mixture of eco lodges, jungle accommodation and lakeside stays, along with a balance of active days, meaningful hands-on experiences and slower moments to relax, swim, explore and connect with the local community.

No previous rescue or volunteer experience is required. There are always a variety of ways guests can contribute depending on comfort levels and abilities.

This is not a commercial holiday package or luxury group trip. It is a shared-cost fundraising journey designed to directly support ongoing grassroots programs connected to Mate's Gift throughout North Sumatra.

Roads can be slow, plans occasionally change and conditions can sometimes be unpredictable – however these moments are often part of what make the experience so memorable and rewarding.

For many guests, the journey becomes genuinely life changing.

Inclusions

Depending on final itinerary structure, inclusions are expected to include:

- Accommodation throughout the journey
- Airport and scheduled ground transfers

- Ferry transfers where applicable
- Most meals listed within the itinerary
- Private transport throughout the program
- Entry fees and activity costs
- Jungle trekking and village experiences
- Participation in community and animal welfare activities
- Support and coordination throughout the journey

Fundraising Commitment

Each guest will commit to a fundraising component prior to departure, with funds going directly towards Mate's Gift programs throughout North Sumatra including:

- Sterilisation clinics
- Parasite control programs
- Veterinary treatment and rehabilitation
- Elephant feeding initiatives
- Community education programs
- Animal welfare outreach projects
- Support for local villages and families

Guests will also be encouraged to assist by transporting donated supplies within their checked luggage allowance including reusable menstrual products, dog blankets, disposable gloves, collars, leads, dog treats, reading glasses, bras and donated medical supplies organised by Mate's Gift.

Accommodation, Pricing & Dates

Confirmed dates, accommodation options and pricing for the October 2027 North Sumatra Fundraising Journey are currently being finalised and will be released soon.

Guests interested in joining the 2027 journey are encouraged to register their interest early, as places are expected to remain limited to help maintain the small-group, community-focused nature of the experience.

For many people, this journey becomes far more than just travel. It becomes an opportunity to contribute to something meaningful, build lifelong friendships and experience a side of Sumatra that stays with you long after returning home.

